

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF: TAKEUCHI et al

SERIAL NO: 10/821,736

FILED: April 9, 2004

TITLE: PRINTED NOTE PROCESSING MACHINE AND SYSTEM

GROUP: 3653

CONFIRMATION NO: 1520

EXAMINER: Mark J. Beauchaine

A M E N D M E N T

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
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SIR:

This is in response to the outstanding office communication dated December 17, 2008. Applicant requests an extension of time for filing a response to this Office Communication until June 17, 2009, with the fee thereof to be deducted from our deposit account 504581.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims in the application with claims 1 and 9 shown as currently amended.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A printed note deposit machine, comprising:
 - a user recognition unit identifying a user with an authenticated person;
 - an inlet unit serving as a receiving teller in which printed notes are deposited;
 - a dispensing unit receiving printed notes deposited in the inlet unit to dispense them in sequence;
 - an identifying unit classifying the dispensed printed notes into four categories of authenticated notes, counterfeit notes, unidentifiable notes, and rejected notes;
 - a temporary money holder for temporarily storing therein the printed notes identified and classified in the identifying unit as authenticated notes, counterfeit notes, and unidentified notes with all other printed notes classified as rejected notes with the rejected notes segregated from said temporarily stored printed notes;
 - a plurality of storage cells provided inside the machine respectively for storing said printed notes which have been temporarily stored in the temporary month holder with said plurality of storage cells having a predetermined storage cell assigned for separately storing counterfeit notes; and

a rejection unit for accumulating the printed notes which have been identified and classified as rejected notes by the identifying unit for return to a user;

wherein authenticated notes temporarily stored in the temporary money holder are stored in any of the plurality of the storage cells other than said predetermined storage cell for return to a user in response to an instruction to return the deposited printed notes and wherein the counterfeit and unidentifiable notes temporarily stored in the temporary money holder remain captured in the predetermined storage cell of the plurality of the storage cells for further examination, such that counterfeit notes deemed to be counterfeit are never returned to the user and may be used as proof that such notes are counterfeit.

2. (previously cancelled).

3. (Original) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 1, wherein the temporary money holder is single in number.

4. (Original) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 1, wherein the identifying unit includes a serial number reader unit to read a serial number unique to each of the printed notes.

5. (Previously Presented) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 1, wherein the identifying unit includes a memory in which it stores printed note information obtained by a plurality of sensors from the printed notes immediately after deposit and classifies the printed note information by each of the sensors into the four categories.

6. (Previously Presented) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 1, further comprising a memory unit storing a transaction data which is a combination of a user information from the user recognition unit, the printed note information from the identifying unit, and a serial number of a machine information relating each of the printed notes.

7. (Original) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 1, further comprising a communication unit externally transferring the user information from the identification unit, the printed note information from the identification unit, and the machine information on the machine used to identify the printed notes.

8. (Original) A printed note deposit system, comprising:

a plurality of the printed note deposit machines as defined in Claim 7;

a database apparatus installed in a central office and receiving transaction data from the memory of each of the printed note deposit machines to accumulate the transaction data; and

a trace unit matching the transaction data accumulated in the database apparatus with transaction data on the detected counterfeit or unidentified notes to track down a user of the unauthenticated notes.

9. (Currently Amended) A printed note deposit machine, comprising: a user recognition unit identifying a user with an authenticated person; an inlet unit serving as a receiving teller in which printed notes are deposited; a dispensing unit receiving printed notes deposited in the inlet unit to dispense them in sequence;

an identifying unit classifying the dispensed printed notes into four categories of authenticated notes, counterfeit notes, unidentifiable notes, and rejected notes;

a temporary money holder storing therein the authenticated notes, the counterfeit notes and the unidentified notes other than rejected notes;

a plurality of storage cells provided inside the machine, respectively for storing the printed notes with which have been temporarily stored in the temporary money holder with said plurality of storage cells having a predetermined storage cell assigned for separately storing counterfeit notes; and

a rejection unit for accumulating the printed notes which have been identified as the rejected notes by the identifying unit to return them to the user;

wherein the identifying unit includes a memory which stores printed note information obtained by a plurality of sensors from the printed notes immediately after deposit and classifies the printed note information by each of the sensors into the four categories; and

wherein authenticated notes temporarily stored in the temporary money holder are stored in any of the plurality of the storage cells other than said predetermined storage cell for return to a user in response to an instruction to return the deposited printed notes and wherein the counterfeit and unidentifiable notes temporarily stored in the temporary money holder remain captured in the predetermined storage cell of the plurality of the storage cells for further examination, such that counterfeit notes deemed

to be counterfeit are never returned to the user and may be used as proof that such notes are counterfeit.

10. (Previously Added) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 9, wherein the temporary money holder is single in number.

11. (Previously Added) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 9, wherein the identifying unit includes a serial number reader unit to read a serial number unique to each of the printed notes.

12. (Previously Presented) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 9, further comprising a memory unit storing [a] transaction data which is a combination of a user information from the user recognition wherein the identifying unit, the printed note information from the identifying unit, and a serial number of a machine that was used to identify each of the printed notes.

13. (Previously Presented) The printed note deposit machine according to claim 9, further comprising a communication unit externally transferring the user information from the identification unit, the printed note information from the identification unit, and the machine information on the machine used to identify the printed notes

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Publication No. US 2004-0084521A1 by Nagayoshi et al in view of Fukatsu (USP 4,524,268) and in view of Blair (USP 6,811,016) is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has previously recited the references Nagayoshi and Fukatsu with the reference Blair being newly cited.

Blair discloses an apparatus for classification and sorting. When an operator puts currency notes into the input cassette 108, the notes may be removed one by one and placed into the currency processing machine 200 to authenticate the notes. All of the notes including unfit and counterfeit notes are returned to the discharge slot cassettes 101-106 marked as unfit notes. The cassettes 101-106 include all notes and are all returned to the user. All of the slot cassettes 101-106 are discharge slots into which the unfit and counterfeit notes are routed with the cassettes 101-106 sealed and returned to the user.

In contrast, according to the present invention, a temporary money holder exists for temporarily storing authenticated notes, unidentifiable and counterfeit notes but not rejected notes. A plurality of storage cells also exists provided inside the machine for storing temporary stored notes but not rejected notes. In addition, a predetermined storage cell (capture bin) exists to which counterfeit notes are assigned and never returned to the user. As such, the counterfeit notes may be subjected to further examination and used as proof that the notes are indeed counterfeit notes. Please be advised that other storing cells for printed notes other than unidentifiable/counterfeit notes are in the form of detachable cassettes. Please refer to the specification page 10,

lines 20-31.

Since Blair does not disclose storage cells located inside the machine for storing printed notes which were temporarily stored having a predetermined storage cell assigned for separating storing counterfeit notes which remain captured i.e. are never returned to the user it is fundamentally different apparatus from Blair.

In contrast to Blair, only authenticated notes temporary stored in a temporary money holder will be returned in response to a "return" instruction. Rejected notes are separately returned. Counterfeit notes are never returned. Please refer to the specification page 11, lines 308.

The Examiner is relying on the reference Blair as teaching a printed note deposit machine comprising a predetermined storage cell assigned for storing counterfeit notes that remain captured for further examination and refers to Col. 3, lines 33-46 for support. However, Col. 3, lines 33-46 in Blair teaches returning the authentic notes as well as unfit or counterfeit notes into the same discharge slot cassettes 101-106 (see lines 40-42) which are sealed and shipped to the user (lines 45-46). There is no capture bin i.e. a predetermined storage cell taught in Blair for capturing counterfeit notes much less in a manner so that the captured counterfeit notes are never returned to the user. This feature makes counterfeit notes available at a later time for further examination, if need be. This is a major distinction between Blair and the subject application.

Accordingly, no basis exists for the allegation of the Examiner that the storage cell configuration of Blair may be incorporated in the machine of Nagayoshi for determining at a later time whether a crime has been committed by using the retained counterfeit notes as proof. Blair does not provide a predetermined storage cell or

capture bin inside the machine for preserving unidentified and counterfeit notes within the machine itself, separated from other printed notes which are returned to the user.

Moreover, claims 1 and 9 require a temporary money holder for temporarily storing both authenticated notes and counterfeit notes with all other printed notes classified as rejected notes and with the rejected notes segregated from the temporarily stored printed notes. In Blair, notes are classified as authentic or unfit. Counterfeit notes are unfit notes, both of which are treated the same way and returned to the same discharge cassette appropriately marked for unfit notes. What is critical in distinguishing claims 1 and 9 from Blair is the use of both a temporary money holder for printed notes other than rejected notes and a plurality of storage cells provided inside the machine for storing notes which have been temporarily stored in the temporary money holder having a predetermined storage cell assigned for separately capturing counterfeit notes. The contents of the storage cell is retained. Blair does not teach such an arrangement. Moreover, both claims 1 and 9 require a rejection unit for accumulating printed notes which have been identified and classified as rejected notes (not the counterfeit notes) for return to a user.

In Blair, the counterfeit and unfit notes are treated the same and are returned to the same group of discharge slot cassettes 101-106 and although marked differently, all of the cassettes are sealed and returned to the user. Marking the notes differently does not change the teaching. Accordingly, the teaching in Blair is entirely different from the subject invention which the Examiner has apparently overlooked simply because Blair marks the notes differently. No basis exists for the allegation of the Examiner "that the counterfeit notes remain captured for further examination for the purpose of detecting whether a crime has been committed". This is clearly opposite what is taught in Blair and is not being taught or suggested. Instead, the Examiner has

imputed the teaching of the subject invention into Blair in error.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 9 as being obvious over the teaching of Nagayoshi '521, Fukatsu '268 in view of Blair '016 should be withdrawn since Blair does not support the allegation of the Examiner. Claims 3-7 and 10-13 are dependent claims which depend respectively from claims 1 and 9 and accordingly are believed patentable for the same reasons as given above.

Claim 8 is independently rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayoshi in view of Fukatsu and Blair for the same reasons as applied to claim 7 and further in view of Utz (USP 6,874,682).

Claim 8 is a dependent claims which depends from claim 7 which in turn depends from claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn for the same reasons as given above relative to claim 1. The Examiner is again relying on Blair for teaching a predetermined storage cell assigned for storing counterfeit notes that remain captured for further examination which is contrary to its teaching in Col. 3, lines 33-46 and cannot be used for the purposes of detecting whether a crime has been committed. As stated above, the authenticated notes as well as the unfit or counterfeit notes are all returned to an appropriate discharge slot cassettes 101-106 all of which are sealed and shipped i.e. returned to the user. The fact that unfit or counterfeit notes in Blair may be returned to one of the discharge slots marked for unfit notes is irrelevant since the system handle them exactly as they handle authenticated notes in that all of the discharge cassettes are sealed and returned. Moreover, Utz does not use a trace unit for purposes of notifying the user of the existence of counterfeit notes. Blair may return unfit notes and counterfeit notes into one slot and authentic notes into another but all are treated alike in that they are placed in the same discharge cassettes 101-106 sealed and returned to the user.

Applicant has reviewed the reference in Utz cited by the Examiner in col. 20, line 59 through Col. 21, line 8 as teaching an operation for correlating suspect notes or other documents by an operator outside of the printed note deposit machine claimed by applicant, i.e. external to the printed note deposit machine. No mention is made of internally capturing counterfeit notes and internally retaining the captured counterfeit notes never to be returned to the user which is the essence of the subject invention. The Examiner is extrapolating from the teaching of Utz in col. 20, line 59 through Col. 21, line 8 without basis. The trace unit in Utz is not intended to track down a user of notes for the purpose of notifying said user of the existence of counterfeit notes. This is not being taught or suggested in Col. 20, line 59 through Col. 21, line 8 nor suggested. The trace unit is external of the printed note deposit machine and serves a different purpose. In the printed note deposit machine of the present invention counterfeit notes are retained and separated from both authentic and rejected notes inside the machine and are never returned to the user. A trace unit cannot provide this function.

For all of the reasons given above, there has clearly been a misunderstanding on the part of the Examiner of the teaching of Claims 1 and 9 and a misunderstanding of the teaching of Blair. The printed note deposit machine as taught in claims 1 and 9 contains a temporary money holder for temporarily storing authenticated notes counterfeit notes and unidentified notes and has a plurality of storage cells inside the printed note deposit machine with the plurality of storage cells having a predetermined storage cell assigned for separately storing and retaining counterfeit notes. Rejected notes which are neither counterfeit notes, unidentified notes or authentic notes are treated separately. The captured counterfeit notes in the predetermined storage cell are not returned to the user which is fundamentally different from the teaching in Blair and the concept taught in Utz.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1 and 3-13 are believed patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-13 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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